



STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

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MINUTES MECHANICAL, VENTILATION AND ENERGY CODES COMMITTEE

Date: June 10, 2009
Location: Seattle Area Pipe Trades, Renton

Mechanical, Ventilation and Energy Codes Committee Members Present: Mari Hamasaki, Chair; Don Jordan; Jerry Mueller; Tien Peng

Mechanical, Ventilation and Energy Codes Committee Members Absent: Kristyn Clayton, Dale Wentworth

Other Council Members Present: Tom Kinsman, John Cochran

Visitors Present: Kraig Stevenson, Julie Nichols, Eric Lohnes, Tom Nichols, Paul O'Connor, Charles deMontigny, Chuck Murray, Maureen Traxler, Paul Burckhard, Bob Eugene, Kate Tate, Mike Spinover

Staff Present: Tim Nogler, Krista Braaksma, Joanne McCaughan

CALL TO ORDER

Mari Hamasaki, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Mari welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA

The agenda was reviewed and approved as written.

TAG REPORTS

Mechanical and Ventilation Codes TAG

Mari said two code change proposals that were previously returned to TAG, Log #09-236 and #09-251 were recommended by the TAG to move to public hearing. Code Change Proposal #236 requires a motorized damper on heat recovery ventilation systems, while #251 deals with dryer duct length. Angie Homola previously asked about #251, whether or not there's an interlock on the fans. Mari said both Underwriters Laboratories and ASHRAE are currently working on interlock requirements for the dryer booster fan.

Two ventilation code change proposals were also considered by the TAG. The recommendation for #09-215, a title clarification submitted by Gary Nordeen, was as submitted. Proposal #09-249, moving whole house ventilation provisions to the International Mechanical Code (IMC), was recommended move forward to public hearing as modified.

Further TAG action was existing state amendments tabled at the last committee meeting. The TAG recommended advancing them as modified.

Motion #1:

Jerry Mueller moved that the Mechanical, Ventilation and Energy Codes Committee accept the recommendations of the Mechanical and Ventilation Codes TAG and forward those recommendations to the Council. Tien Peng seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Don Jordan asked if the TAG discussed the maximum length of ducts when it reviewed #251. He said the length of the horizontal run or the vertical lift can be a concern because of moisture problems in the crawlspace. Mari answered that the TAG did discuss maximum length. She said various manufacturers have varying recommendations about length. The TAG decided to move this proposal forward because length is based on manufacturers' recommendations.

Energy Code TAG

Don, Chair of the last Energy Code TAG meeting, said agreement was reached with the small business alliance about a new window default table. That consensus was based on legislation that exempted small business from some testing requirements. Tim said Krista is preparing the new table for distribution to the TAG. He noted the small business default U-value table for windows now covers all occupancies. Don agreed, saying the definition of small business is "fewer than 50 employees or \$1 million in sales."

Tim said the legislation referred to is a recent amendment to the Regulatory Fairness Act, which specifies that a small business impact statement will be filed with the proposed rule.

Don said the whole focus of the last TAG meeting was to address small business concerns. Tim said another item was an air leakage exemption, allowing windows to be taped along the frames when the test is done.

Tim added there was a significant amount of discussion about the letter from the Governor, regarding the purpose of energy code development in 2009. Don noted the Governor respectfully requested, in her letter, that the Council amend the Washington State Energy Code (WSEC) to achieve a 30 percent reduction in new building energy use compared to the 2006 WSEC. Tim said this was one of the small business concerns. They expressed four concerns in their letter: window U-values, air leakage, commercial buildings, and the 30 percent increase in WSEC stringency.

Tim said the Energy Code TAG has been meeting every Friday. Future meetings are scheduled for June 12 and 19. Then the TAG will meet on June 25 and 26 to compile their work to date into a report to submit to the Council on July 9.

Tim said Krista Braaksma posts the current Energy Code TAG matrix on the Council website, so that interested parties can track the status of code change proposals.

Public Comment on the Energy Code

Kate Tate, Quadrant Homes

We're the state's largest homebuilder, and we have a great interest in being able to continue to build energy efficient homes. It's important, we think, to help pave the way for companies like ours and other homebuilders to be able to help reach the state's energy reduction goals.

We are very concerned about the 170 amendments that are being considered under the WSEC. We think that a better approach would be to either adopt Chapter 4 of the IECC or, alternatively, Chapter 11 of the IRC, which I understand is virtually identical. We think either one of those would be a better, more cost-effective way to reach the wanted energy conservation goals that the Legislature has set. We also think that using Chapter 4 would help position the state builder in being able to meet the IECC, which this Council recently adopted.

And so we just wanted to state our concern about the 170 amendments. We don't think it's the best way to move forward to meet the state's goals. We would like you to consider the alternative.

STAFF REPORT

Tim said Council staff has been working extremely hard this code cycle, preparing for and attending an unusually large number of TAG meetings. He said he hopes staff is keeping up and providing all the support the Council needs.

A limited number of 2009 International Existing Building Code and 2009 International Energy Conservation Code books are available for use by interested Council members. Tim asked members to let staff know which books they're interested in receiving.

OTHER BUSINESS

John called attention to some new potentially useful tools available on the ICC website:

- 2009 IECC and ANSI/ASHRE/IESNA Standard 90.1
- Have available together as one book a comparison of 2009 IECC and 2007 ASHRAE Standard 90.1

ADJOURNMENT

Lacking further business, Mari adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.